

Claims

1. Method for reporting at least one dropped-out connection path of a first network node to a second network node of a packet switching communication network featuring one or more network nodes, in which at least one network node is a destination network node which is connected in each case by at least one connection path with at least the first and the second network node, with these nodes being connected to one another by a further connection path and that a routing table is contained in the network node in each case and in the routing table of the first network node the direct connection path from the first network node to the destination network node is entered as the primary routing path and the path leading from the first network node via the second network node to the destination network node is entered as the alternate routing path and correspondingly in the routing table of the second network node the direct connection path from the second network node to the destination node is entered as the primary routing path and the path leading from the second network node via the first network node to the destination network node is entered as the alternate routing path, and the relevant alternate routing paths are only used if there is a fault on the primary routing path,
characterized in that,
a fault on the primary connection path present between the first network node and the destination network node is reported by the first network node by a message directed to the second network node which controls the second network node in such a way as to prevent, on failure of its primary connection path leading to the destination network node, a transfer of data packets to the destination network node via the alternate routing path which leads from the second network node via the first network node to the target network node, and that in a

similar way the second network node, if there is a disruption to its primary connection path, issues a message and the first network node is controlled accordingly.

2. Method in accordance with claim 1,
5 characterized in that,
the message is sent to the neighboring nodes immediately after the occurrence of the fault on the primary connection path.
3. Method in accordance with one of the previous claims.
characterized in that,
10 the message is transferred cyclically for as long as the fault lasts on the primary connection path.
4. Method in accordance with one of the previous claims.
characterized in that,
a message is transferred to its neighboring nodes at the start
15 of a fault and a message at the end of a fault on the primary connection path of a network node.
5. Method in accordance with one of the previous claims.
characterized in that,
the fault is reported directly by a routing protocol.
- 20 6. Method in accordance with one of the previous claims.
characterized in that,
a keep-alive message is expanded by at least one field in which the fault message to the neighboring node is entered and this keep-alive message is used for fault reporting.
- 25 7. Method in accordance with one of the previous claims.
characterized in that,
for a fault on the primary connection path of a network node its network node identification number is used in the message and at least this is reported via the alternate routing path to
30 the neighboring node.

8. Method for reporting at least one dropped-out connection path of a first network node to a second network node of a packet switching communication network featuring one or more network nodes, in which at least one network node is a destination network node which is connected in each case by at least one connection path with at least the first and the second network node, with these nodes being connected to one another by a further connection path and that a routing table is contained in the network node in each case and in the routing table of the first network node the direct connection path from the first network node to the destination network node is entered as the primary routing path and the path leading from the first network node via the second network node to the destination network node is entered as the alternate routing path and correspondingly in the routing table of the second network node the direct connection path from the second network node to the destination node is entered as the primary routing path and the path leading from the second network node via the first network node to the destination network node is entered as the alternate routing path, and the relevant alternate routing paths are only used if there is a fault on the primary routing path, characterized in that, the first network node in the error-free state transfers messages cyclically to at least the second network node, which are absent if there is a fault on the primary connection path to the destination network node of the first network node, and that the second network node is controlled such that, in the absence of the messages from the first network node and on failure of its primary connection path to the destination network node, a transfer of data packets to the destination network node via the alternate routing path, which leads from the second network node via the first network node to the

destination network node, is prevented, and that in a similar way the second network node does not issue any messages for a fault on its primary connection path and the first network node is controlled accordingly.

- 5 9. Network node for a communication network featuring a number of network nodes, characterized in that, it can be operated using a method in accordance with one of the previous claims.